

**Public Transportation Stakeholders Advisory Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2007
City Commission Meeting Room**

(4:10) Meeting called to order.

Members Present: Chairman Chris Budeski, Gus Pfaehler, Commissioner Bill Murdock, Suzanne Winchester, Carol Shannon and Patty Gunderson.

Members Absent: Colleen Lindner (excused) and Commissioner Steve Kirchhoff.

Others Present: David Kack, Lisa Ballard and Recording Secretary Crystal Turner.

There was no **public comment** that was not on the Committee's agenda.

(4:10) Approval of Minutes for August 14, 2007

Gus Pfaehler moved to approve the minutes as written. Suzanne Winchester seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

(4:12) Update on Bus System

Lisa Ballard started by noting the dates of so many changes since the last meeting: School started, Streamline began extended service and late night service (Thursday, Friday and Saturdays until 2AM). The late night service routes around downtown, stopping at locations such as the "Barmuda Triangle" and Wilson & Main Streets. This service is not only to help eliminate DUIs but riders have also stated they are returning home from the movie theatres, work or even errand-runs. Chris Budeski reminded Lisa that he met with the Tavern Association and they had agreed to help contribute financially for this service.

Road construction and closures are making it very difficult for drivers to maintain usual routes and keep the buses running on time. New bus schedule pamphlets have been proofed and printed.

David Kack stated that current ridership numbers are estimated higher than last year's, but the data is not complete due to staffing deficiencies. Based on the estimate the cost per rider is roughly \$5.44. (Note: it costs about \$5 for a cab ride in the downtown area, plus a tip for the driver.) The better our ridership numbers, the lower the cost-per-ride amount will be. Regarding Belgrade's ridership, peak Belgrade hours are comparative to the Yellow Line riders at peak hours. Patty Gunderson told the Board that Belgrade is happy with the buses coming into the city. She has heard comments that it is hard to get to a bus stop, which she responded by saying, "Streamline can only do so much." She offered that Belgrade could possibly help with that problem by building sidewalks/crosswalks.

David Kack reported that Streamline and Skyline have both won an "Excellence in Rural Transportation" awards from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). He is working on a press release to let the public know about these awards.

Group discussed some issues with drivers and locations of bus stops. City of Bozeman's street department has said they are finishing the curb painting and then will return to verify each stop is clearly marked in the corresponding schedule location.

Lisa asked that any board member who has not yet ridden a Streamline or Skyline bus do so by the next Board meeting (October 9th, 2007).

(4:40) UTD Discussion

Chris recapped that the sub-committee did recommend a UTD to the board; the boundary would be the current city limits of Bozeman (growing with annexations) and would not be a municipal system. Need to create a full “wish list” of service they want: routes, boundaries, half-hour service, mills needed, etc... Once this is decided the Board could do a press release or op/ed piece to get that news out to the public. Commissioner Murdock suggested that a first presentation of this info is given to the City of Bozeman Commission, then County and Belgrade. It is a topic of discussion at the upcoming joint City/County breakfast on September 21st. Lisa said that another way to advise the public of the UTD goals would be to talk about the original Regional Transportation Plan.

The City of Belgrade and River Rock or Three Forks could create their own UTD and contract with this one for service. Discussion about bus service to the airport. Patty Gunderson asked how vulnerable Belgrade is to losing its service. David Kack stated that without the City funding more (or asking its voters to fund more) if a UTD boundary was approved they would not receive any new service because the UTD taxpayers would be subsidizing Belgrade's service. Board discussed mill levies, funding from ASMSU, MSU, cities and other entities.

Next Meeting

Sub-committee will meet on September 25th at 4PM in the Community Room of the County Courthouse. Next Public Transit meeting will be October 9th at **3:45** in the City of Bozeman's Commission Room.

Remember: All future Public Transit meetings will begin at 3:45 now to get through the monthly items first, then try to dedicate one hour to the UTD discussion.

Meeting adjourned

5:15